



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

Headquarters

A National Perspective on NOAA Fisheries Ecosystem-related Efforts

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Take Aways

- NOAA Fisheries needs to, can and is committed to doing EBFM
- Making EBFM operational remains a key challenge, but is one we are up for!



Why are we doing EBFM & Related Efforts?

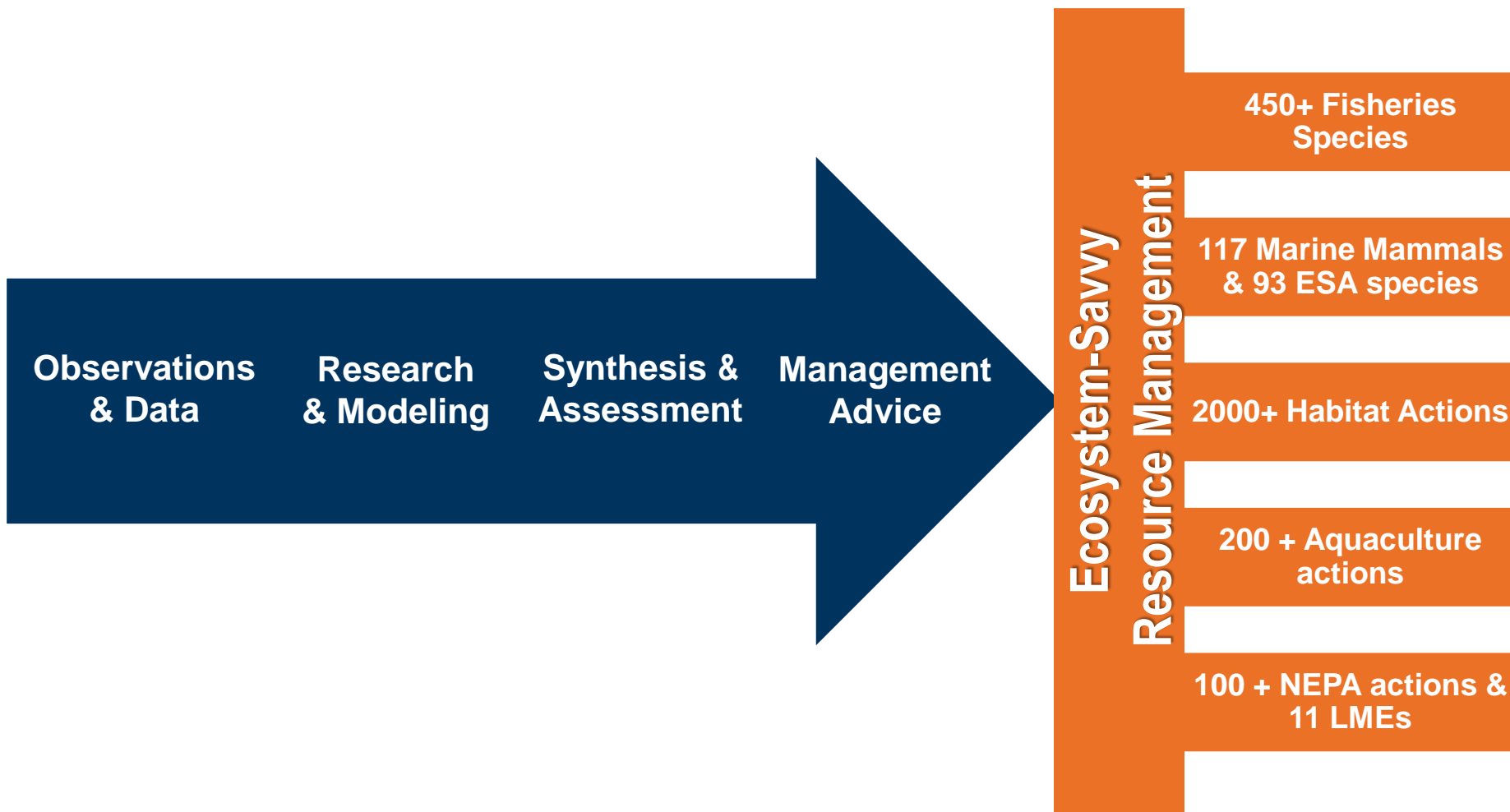
- Clarify the agency's commitment to integrating its management programs for living marine resources
- Recognize and plan to address challenges under changing climate, ecological, and ocean conditions
- Build on, collate and better coordinate NOAA and Councils past progress and successes
- Address the many tradeoffs that are increasingly arising
- Reap the many benefits from a more systematic approach

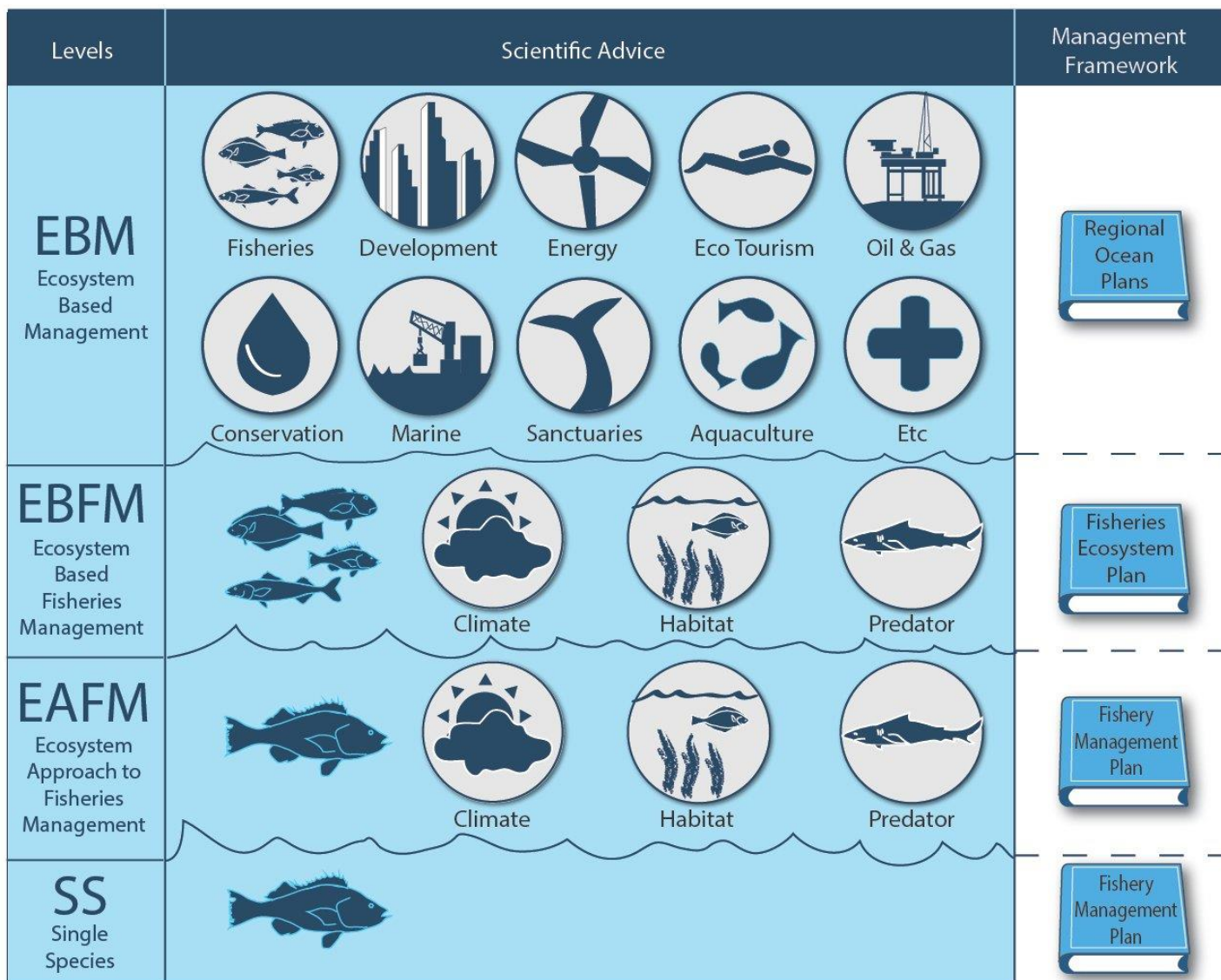


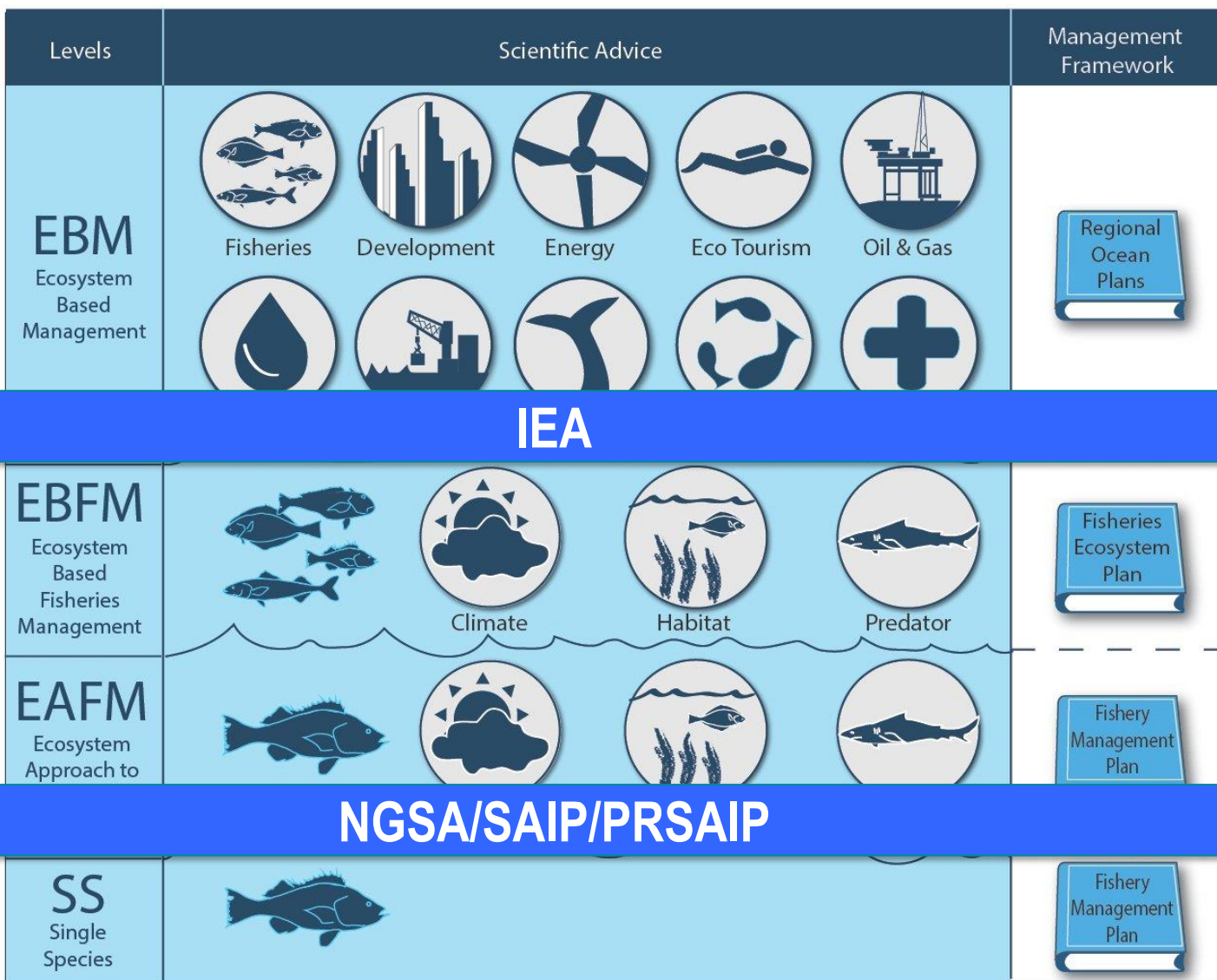
Ongoing Ecosystem-related efforts

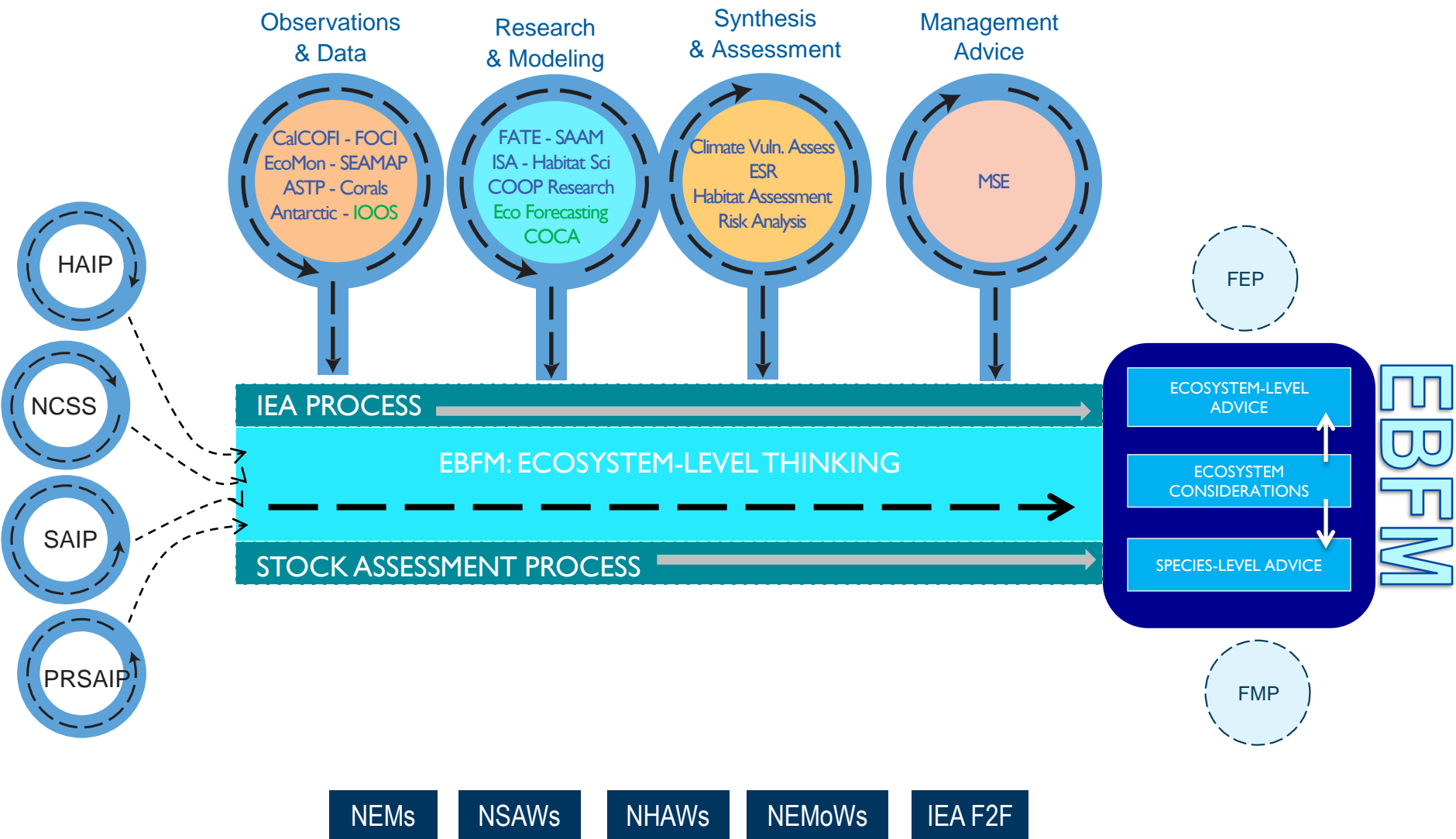


Multiple Mandates, Multiple Opportunities









Why an EBFM Policy Statement?

- Clarify, solidify, and document NMFS' commitment to EBFM
- Establish a framework of guiding principles to enhance and accelerate the implementation of EBFM within NMFS



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Key Issues:

- Relate EBFM to existing legal authorities and requirements for LMR management
- Identify elements of a systematic approach

Policy Statement

NOAA Fisheries strongly supports implementation of Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management (EBFM) to better inform and enable better decisions regarding trade-offs among and between fisheries (commercial, recreational, and subsistence), aquaculture, protected species, biodiversity, and habitats. Recognizing the interconnectedness of these ecosystem components will help maintain resilient and productive ecosystems (including the human communities on which they depend), even as they respond to climate, habitat, ecological, and other environmental changes.

Policy Defines EBFM as:

a systematic approach to fisheries management in a geographically specified area that contributes to the resilience and sustainability of the ecosystem; recognizes the physical, biological, economic, and social interactions among the affected fishery-related components of the ecosystem, including humans; and seeks to optimize benefits among a diverse set of societal goals

EBFM Guiding Principles

Outcome

6. Maintain Resilient Ecosystems

What is our advice?

5. Incorporate ecosystem considerations into management advice

What are our options?

4. Explore and address trade-offs within an ecosystem

What are our priorities?

3. Prioritize vulnerabilities and risks of ecosystems and their components

What is the foundational science we need?

2. Advance our understanding of ecosystem processes

What are our objectives?

1. Implement ecosystem-level planning

Policy Update

- The Final Policy was released the end of May
- It incorporates the issues we heard in public comment
- Many comments we received on the Policy were addressed through the Road Map



Why an EBFM Road Map?



- Guides implementation of the Final EBFM Policy
- Incorporates the menu of options for implementation and benchmarks for NMFS

Key Questions:

- What does successful EBFM look like?
- What do we need for successful implementation of EBFM?
- How do we measure completion and success of EBFM?

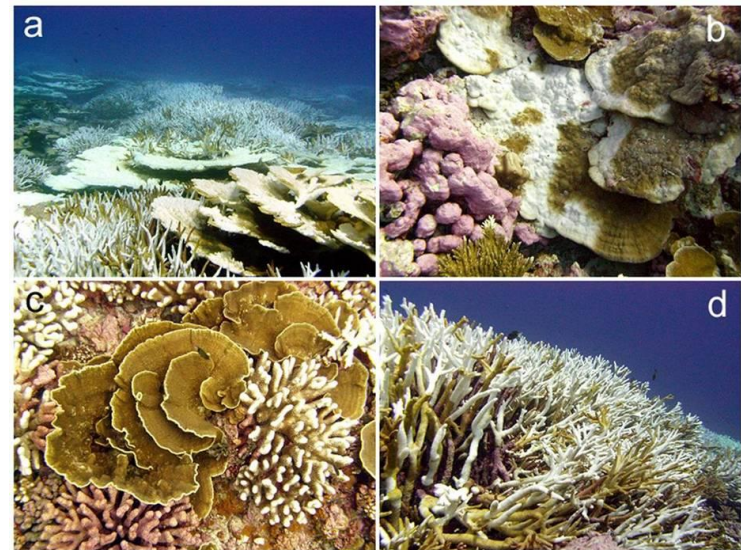


6 Guiding Principles, with Core Components are:

1. **Implement ecosystem-level planning**
 - Engagement Strategy
 - Fishery Ecosystem Plans
2. **Advance our understanding of ecosystem processes**
 - Conduct Science to Understand Ecosystems
 - Ecosystem Status Reports
3. **Prioritize vulnerabilities and risks of ecosystems and their components**
 - Ecosystem-level Risk Assessment
 - Managed Species, Habitats & Communities Risk assessment
4. **Explore and address trade-offs within an ecosystem**
 - Modeling Capacity
 - Management Strategy Evaluations
5. **Incorporate ecosystem considerations into management advice**
 - Ecosystem-level Reference Points
 - Incorporate Ecosystem Considerations for Living Marine Resources
 - Systematic Advice for Other Management Considerations
6. **Maintain resilient ecosystems**
 - Evaluate Resilience

Next Steps for Road Map

- Just finished informal Council comment Period for 45 days.
- Now out for informal public review for 45-days
- Hope to finalize in Fall of 2016



Summary

- EBFM is needed, and NMFS is committed to doing so
- These efforts will help us meet our mission more effectively
- These efforts are a start to codify what operational EBFM looks like
- We, and our partners, are already doing ~20-30% of the EBFM elements
- Want to maintain a continued dialogue

